

Memorial Service for
Susan Carlson Wood

Saturday, July 13, 2019, 11:00 am • Pasadena Covenant Church

We Lament

Psalm 22:9–11
Psalm 30:5

Dwight Carlson

Prayer of Lament

Pastor Jim Tyberg

We Trust

Habakkuk 3:17–19
Isaiah 55:1–3

Jean Campbell

*Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father” (#87)

Congregation

Children of the heav’nly Father
Safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in Heaven
Such a refuge e’er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish,
In his holy courts they flourish;
From all evil things he spares them,
In his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth,
And their sorrows all he knoweth.

Praise the Lord in joyful numbers,
Your Protector never slumbers;
At the will of your Defender
Ev’ry foeman must surrender.

(continued on next page)

Though He giveth or He taketh
God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them, pure and holy.

Words: Lina Sandell (1832-1903), tr. Ernst W. Olson (1870-1958) Music: Swedish Melody (1874)
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We Hope

Romans 8:22–28
Hebrews 10:23

Janet Graff

*Hymn

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (#433)

Congregation

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand:
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.

Refrain

His oath, his covenant, his blood,
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in him be found;
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless to stand before the throne.

Refrain

Words: Edward Mote (1797-1874) Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868)

We Remember & Celebrate

Slide Presentation

Tributes

Greg Carlson
Alanna Kelly
Becky Still
Charissa Wood

*Hymn

"Heavenly Father" (#392)

Congregation

Heav'nly Father, hallow'd is your name.
May your kingdom quickly come.
May it be on earth just as in heav'n, your perfect will be done.
Give today our daily bread. Take away our sin.

Refrain

May your kingdom's pow'r be glorified and with our lives begin.

Precious Jesus, how do we express all the gratitude we owe
For the price you paid to offer us salvation for our souls?
When we're faced with doubt and fear, draw us close again.

Refrain

Holy Spirit, fall afresh on us, let our weary souls rejoice.
In the loud, confusing life we lead, speak with your still, small voice.
Be our comfort, couns'lor, and guide, search our hearts within.

Words and Music: Richard K. Carlson, ©1985 Hark Productions, Inc.

We Worship

Meditation

Rev. John Notehelfer

*Closing Hymn

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (#78)

Congregation

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not:
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960) Music: William M. Runyan (1870-1957)
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Benediction

Rev. John Notehelfer

*The family invites everyone to the gym after the service
for a light lunch and a time of fellowship and celebration.*



For those who would like to honor Susan, please consider a donation to any of the following causes she cared deeply about:

InterVarsity
donate.intervarsity.org

This campus ministry, which advances witnessing communities of students and faculty, was central to Susan's college experience.

Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE)
cluejustice.org/donate

CLUE is committed to supporting vulnerable immigrants, for whom Susan cared deeply.

Charissa Wood's tuition at University of Colorado Law School
by Venmo (@Charissa-Wood-1) or
mail a check to Charissa at 1938 Spruce St. #3, Boulder, CO 80302

Susan was proud of Charissa and eager to see her finish law school; she has two years left.

Susan Carlson Wood

January 15, 1963 – June 23, 2019



Susan Lynette Carlson was born January 15, 1963, to Dwight and Betty Carlson in Washington, DC, and was joined two years later by a brother, Greg. When Dwight finished medical school in 1964, the family moved to Southern California, soon settling in Torrance where Susan spent her childhood and youth.



Whip-smart and a quick learner, Susan excelled in school from the beginning and earned a number of awards over the years. She also flourished as a musician, playing the piano from an early age as well as the flute in her high school's marching and concert bands. She earned a bachelor's degree with honors in 1984 from Occidental College and, in 1999, an MDiv from Fuller Seminary.



Every dimension of Susan's life was rooted in her deep faith. Raised in a solidly Christian home, she grew up attending Rolling Hills Covenant Church, went to camp at Alpine every year, became an active member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in college, and spent a summer on a mission



trip in Guatemala. She also volunteered with the youth ministry at Rolling Hills Covenant, where she became friends—and then a little more than friends—with a charismatic junior high pastor named John Wood.

As they began to seriously date, Susan was diagnosed with a form of leukemia many feared would be terminal. Yet the two were not daunted, and on February 18, 1985, Susan and John were married. Meanwhile, Susan's father—despite resistance from



doctors insisting that parents are rarely a bone marrow match for their children—got tested, and found that he was indeed a match for her. In March 1985, Susan received the bone marrow transplant from her dad that would save her life, and they went



on to write a book together about their experience: *When Life Isn't Fair: Why We Suffer and How God Heals*.



In the years that followed, Susan devotedly served alongside John as he pastored churches in Minnesota, Rosemead, and Los Angeles. In 1993 they adopted Charissa, a source of joy and delight to both Susan and John from the day she entered their lives.

A highly skilled editor, Susan began working at Fuller Seminary in 1994.

She held several roles over the years in the Academic Programs Office, then went on to serve as an editor in Fuller's communications department and School of Psychology. Over the years Susan was also an accomplished, widely appreciated editor for countless scholarly books and articles authored by faculty members and others both within and outside of Fuller. She was indeed the one, say all who worked with her, to tap for the keen editorial eye she merged with her theological expertise.



Susan suffered many losses over the years, including losing her beloved John to early-onset dementia in 2017, and seeing him deteriorate in the years leading up to his death. Yet she met that challenge and many others with stamina, a steadfast faith, and never an ounce of self-pity. She loved both John



and Charissa deeply and gave herself to them without reservation.

Susan is survived by her daughter Charissa, brother Greg, and father Dwight. We will truly miss this honorable woman, but we rejoice that she and John are together again.



In Memory of
Susan Carlson Wood



*Loving Wife & Mother • Devoted Daughter & Sister
Stellar Editor & Writer • Accomplished Scholar
Enthusiastic Player of Board Games*

Honoring the life of
Susan Carlson Wood



January 15, 1963 – June 23, 2019